VISION SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

This is by no means the definitive guide for vision screenings in your schools—it is meant only to outline the highlights of this process and the reporting obligations for public charter schools.

The Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI) has state oversight responsibility for ensuring that vision screenings are conducted as outlined by law and Utah Health Department's guidelines in public schools. Electronic guidelines are not yet available from DSBVI, but if you contact Cindey Page she can mail you a packet that details the process and requirements; she can also answer your questions and assist you in conducting screenings, including training your volunteers and providing forms and screening supplies.

Cindey Page, Vision Screening Technician, DSBVI (801) 323-4371 clpage@utah.gov

Vision Screening Basics:

- ✓ State law requires public schools to screen all pre-kindergarten <u>and</u> kindergarten children each school year and to submit a report and follow up information to DSBVI by June 15.
- ✓ DSBVI and Utah State Health Department recommend conducting screenings early (during fall and winter) to ensure that students needing glasses get them early in the year, and to allow ample time for the distribution of notices, referrals, and follow up information before the June 15 report deadline.
- √ Volunteers and parents may conduct the screenings if they have successfully completed screener training. They are NOT allowed to fill out the required paperwork.
- ✓ Within six weeks of screenings, letters of notification and referral forms must be sent to
 parents for all children who fail the screening. State law requires all parents to be notified
 when any child fails any health screening.
- ✓ Your school must report students in grades pre-k and kindergarten who fail vision screenings to DSBVI, as well as reporting your follow-up actions with students who failed. Reports & follow up must be completed by June 15.
- \checkmark DSBVI suggests annual vision screening for all 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 10th grade students. This is not required by law but recommended as best practice. Many school districts provide vision screening every year for all students.
- ✓ DSBVI recommends screening all transfer students who come to your school without a prior vision screening certificate in their files. State law requires all children up to the age of seven to provide proof of a vision screening prior to entering school.

Contact Cindey for more detailed guidance.